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Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, MAY 19-22, 2017

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Pemberton music fest cancelled

CLOSING ACT

Organizers file for bankruptcy, no refunds for ticket buyers

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

Festivalgoers have been left in the lurch by the sudden cancellation of the Pemberton Music Festival.

The organizers of the annual summertime festival announced Thursday afternoon that it has filed for bankruptcy and cancelled this year's event.

"The 2017 Pemberton Music Festival scheduled for July 13-16, 2017 is cancelled and will not proceed as scheduled," reads a legal note that has replaced the festival website.

Those hoping to catch this year's performances, by artists such as headliners Chance the Rapper and Muse, aren't just missing out on weekend fun, they could also end up with a hole in their wallets.

No refunds are being offered for people who have already purchased tickets, according to organizers. "Unfortunately there are no automatic refunds from PMF," the website reads. "A determination of recovery, if any, on the claims of ticket holders from the estate will not be known for several weeks."

People who had bought tickets for the festival were incredulous at the news online.

"When you spend a week's pay on Pemberton tickets and now that it's cancelled they say you can't get your money back," tweeted one man, Pete, with a cartoon of a person laying in a puddle of their own tears.

"You ruined my summer @Pemberton_Fest," tweeted Luke Clausing.

Cyclists and a pedestrian at Main and Union streets on May 18. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Chris Cornell, lead singer for Soundgarden and Audioslave, found dead in Detroit. **Life**

Chinatown residents rally against condo proposal

DEVELOPMENT

Project would see 12-storey building built near memorial

Wanyee Li
Metro | Vancouver

Chinatown advocates are once again readying themselves for a fight to protect their way of life in a corner of the neighbourhood that holds special meaning to the community.

The proposed 12-storey condo would be built next to the Chinese-Canadian memorial at 105 Keefer St.. But many current Chinatown residents won't be able to afford to live next to the very memorial dedicated to them and their families, said advocate Beverly Ho, with the Chinatown Concern Group.

"The development is disrespectful in that most of the units won't be affordable and it's right next to the memorial commemorating Chinese-Canadians who built the country and who had to deal with the head tax," the 22-year old explained.

The memorial features a statue of a railroad worker and a veteran standing beside the Chinese character zhong, symbolizing harmony.

Beedie Group's revised rezoning application for the parking lot beside the memorial details a 110-unit condo that includes 25 BC Housing units for seniors. Ho, who grew up in Chinatown, doubts whether the neighbourhood's low-income residents will be able to afford them.

Rental rates for the 25 seniors units have not been announced yet.

Chinatown Advocates are protesting a condo that will go up next to a memorial dedicated to Chinese Canadians. Beverly Ho at the site located at the corner of Columbia and Keefer on Wednesday. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

> **A lot of people are starting to have trouble finding groceries.**
> Beverly Ho

But even if the rate was affordable for seniors on pensions, 25 homes is not nearly enough for the several thousands of seniors that live in the Downtown Eastside, many of whom live in old buildings that need repair, said Ho.

"It doesn't even make a dent."

About 100 Chinatown residents are set to attend a rally at city hall Tuesday in advance of a public hearing on the rezoning application. Ho says the Chinatown Concern Group will be calling for a 100 per cent pension rate social housing building instead. It also wants to see the city make it easier for family-owned retailers to come back into the neighbourhood. Many grocery and herb stores have been pushed out due to rising property taxes and rents.

Ho fears Chinatown will soon be unrecognizable.

"A lot of people are starting to have trouble finding groceries and basic necessities in that area now," she said.

The revised rezoning application currently under review includes a few changes from the original application, including: one storey shorter than before, nine fewer market-rate units, and a new courtyard open to the public.

City councillors are not permitted to speak about the matter before its public hearing.

TAKE PART

Rally
1 p.m. at 105 Keefer St.
Monday, May 22

Public hearing
6 p.m. at city hall
Tuesday, May 23

Vancouver DIGEST

Police to take part in Pride Parade march

Vancouver police will walk in Vancouver's Pride Parade this summer after reaching an agreement with the Vancouver Pride Society, the police announced Thursday. They had two petitions to consider in its decision — one asked that police not participate in the parade, and the other asked that police be included. Vancouver police and pride parade organizers agreed that 20 per cent of the police contingent will wear uniform and the rest will wear t-shirts. In addition, there will be no marked police vehicles in the parade. This will be the 21st consecutive year Vancouver police have participated in the Vancouver Pride Parade. WANYEE LI/METRO

Victoria police chief quits amid misconduct investigation

Victoria's suspended police chief quit Thursday amid an investigation into his sexually charged Twitter messages to the wife of a subordinate officer. The Victoria and Esquimalt Police Board said in a statement Frank Elsner resigned from his position as chief constable and will no longer receive his salary or other benefits after his suspension a year ago. He has been under investigation by the Office of the Police Complaint Commissioner and had already been reprimanded following a police board probe into allegations of discreditable conduct and misuse of the department's devices. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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B.C. NDP Leader John Horgan addresses his new caucus in Vancouver on Thursday.
JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

NDP, Greens differ on reform: Horgan

POLITICS

Parties will have to compromise on path to electoral reform

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

To referendum or not referendum?

That was the question hanging over NDP Leader John Horgan's head Thursday as he addressed the media after the party's first post-election caucus meeting in Vancouver.

Horgan has been courting Andrew Weaver and the BC Green Party in a bid to form British Columbia's next government after a historic close election.

Both parties want to ban corporate and union donations from politics, support electoral reform and have promised increased education and child-care spending, among other similarities.

Where the parties differ, though, is how to get to electoral reform.

The NDP campaigned on a promise to hold a referendum on a proportional representation system, while the Greens would go ahead and implement it without going to the public first.

Asked if he would back away from a referendum if it means forming government, Horgan only said he was "open to discussions" with Weaver about it.

"We want proportional representation. The Greens want it," said Horgan. "In this case, it's a difference of how do we get there and I'm prepared to discuss it with Mr. Weaver."

As it currently stands, the BC Liberals hold 43 seats in the Legislature, to the NDP's 41 and the Greens' three but there are still more than 170,000 absentee ballots to count next week, which could flip several close ridings.

All three parties have been fairly tight-lipped about ongoing negotiations with each other as they position themselves to form government, but Horgan has ramped up talk about a possible NDP-Green Party coalition.

"Almost 60 per cent of people who cast ballots voted for a new government. I believe that Andrew Weaver and his colleagues and the group of people with me here today (the NDP caucus) can form that government," he said. "We have lots of common ground with the Green Party and we've explored that in discussions. I have every confidence there is more that binds us together than separates us."

That coalition isn't a forgone conclusion.

Christy Clark said also signalled her intent to work across party lines and remain premier of the province and Weaver hasn't ruled out propping up another Liberal government.

POLICE

Mounties charge vigilante group members with assault

RCMP say two men associated with a vigilante group in Surrey have been charged with assault.

Police say Ryan LaForge is charged with one count of assault and one count of uttering threats related to an alleged incident on April 3.

LaForge, who is the president of the Surrey Creep Catchers, posted a Facebook Live video saying he had been arrested after conducting a "citizen's arrest" of a target.

The group targets people they allege are child sexual predators by posing as minors online, arranging to meet their targets and filming the encounters, which are then posted on the Internet.

The RCMP say the 34-year-old LaForge is also facing a separate assault charge in an alleged incident on April 19.

In a news release, police say there was a confrontation between a man alleged to have been involved in child luring and three men believed to be involved with the vigilante group.

Police say a second member of the group, 37-year-old Lance Loy, has also been charged with assault stemming from the alleged incident on April 19. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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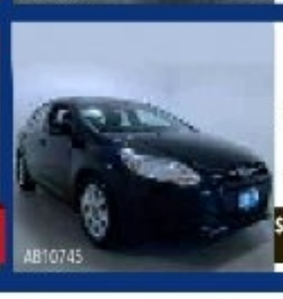

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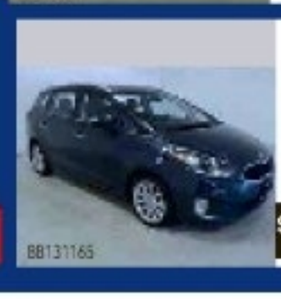

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David Mora Perea, who plays the bumbling hero of Capilano University student Malibu Taetz's short silent film Accidental, navigates a gauntlet of trombone slides in his quest to return sheet music to a cellist. COURTESY CAPILANO UNIVERSITY

Film student's project headed to Cannes

CAPILANO UNIVERSITY

Malibu Taetz lands spot in fest's Short Film Corner

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

A second-year Capilano University film student's Cannes-do attitude has landed him a coveted spot at the world-famous festival held all next week.

Malibu Taetz's 13-minute silent film Accidental — a symphonic short that tells its love story via Antonin Dvorak's Symphony No. 9 — was selected as part of the venerable event's Short Film Corner, which although not a competition offers a chance to be noticed by industry distributors.

One of his instructors suggested he submit his short, filmed last year when he was 19, to Cannes for consideration.

"I thought that's ridiculous, that'll never happen," he recalled in a phone interview. "But when it made it into the Short Film Corner there I wasn't sure what to do after that. It was pretty awesome."

Filmed without dialogue, Accidental is about an orchestra's clumsy fifth French horn player, with a comically minor musical part, who accidentally swaps music with the first cellist at the opposite end of the orchestra before a performance — and goes to great lengths to crawl unnoticed under the musicians to get it back to her.

All seemingly unnoticed by the stern conductor despite his noisy exploits dodging a gauntlet of trombone slides, disapproving brass section stares, and a beat-stomping clarinetist.

Why did Taetz choose a French horn for the bumbling, smitten protagonist? That, he admitted, is autobiographical.

"It's the strangest instrument ever; it's the only one that faces backwards," he explained.

"When you're playing it in an orchestra, you're in the very farthest corner, and you often just count for 100 bars of rests before one note — and just when you're about to play your note, the conductor will stop you …

"You sit there having a lot of time to think."

But when the French horn finally gets its moment of melodic glory, he argued, "it's the most beautiful sound in the orchestra, I think — when it really gets the chance."

Born and raised in Kelowna, the North Vancouver resident was able to make the unusual film thanks to Capilano's Advanced Film Projects program, nicknamed "Off the Grid" because it's extra-curricular and allows students to use the department's equipment and facilities in the month-long gap between spring semester and summer maintenance, explained School of Motion Picture Arts chair Michael Thomas.

"I found some of the good projects slip through the cracks," Thomas told Metro. "Sometimes the filmmakers have a vision that doesn't fit the curriculum for one reason or another — I wanted to create a net to capture some of those great projects."

Accidental is the first Off the Grid creation to make it to Cannes, but previous cohorts have won awards and one is being adapted into a full-length feature, he said.

"Malibu is very talented and ambitious," Thomas said. "Accidental was very complicated — he wanted a full orchestra and no dialogue, based on just one piece of classical music.

"But it fell outside the curriculum because it's a fair amount of organization to bring in a 40-piece orchestra."

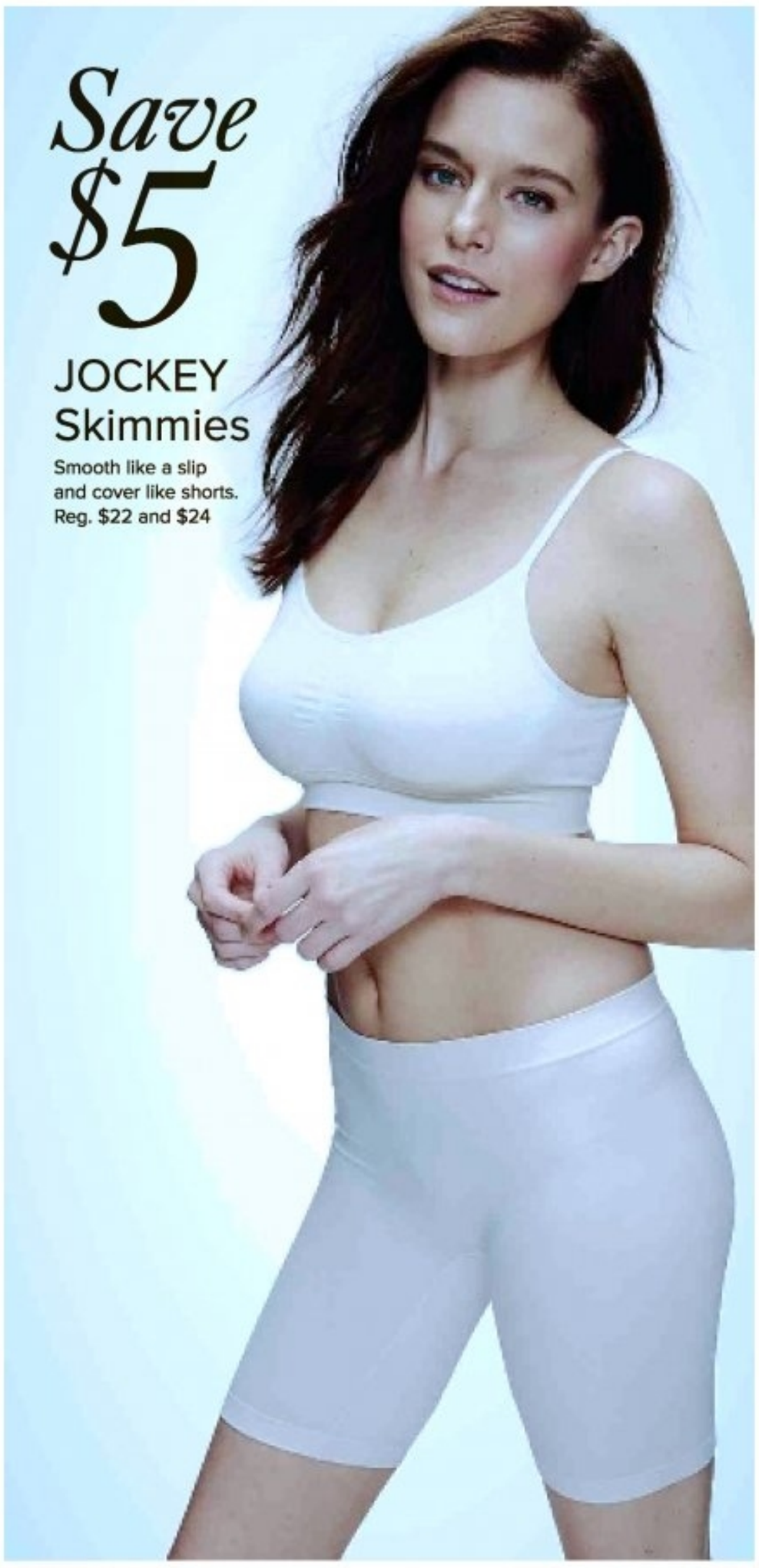
Thomas launched the program roughly eight years ago, and has mentored roughly 50 students through the filmmaking process beyond what's already taught in class.

Taetz said his biggest inspiration is early 20th-century Italian-American director Frank Capra — the force behind It's a Wonderful Life and Mr. Smith Goes to Washington — and Charlie Chaplin silent films.

"Off the Grid is a unique thing," Taetz said. "I just love it because it gave us a lot more freedom than you get in a school project, when everyone does the thing they never thought you could do.

"But Off the Grid is doing the thing you've always wanted to do — and doing your best at it."

On Wednesday, he wrapped up shooting on his newest film project, Return to Sender — also an Off the Grid creation — a crowdfunded love story about a celestial mail sorting facility that inadvertently sends a heavenly message to a dishwasher on his alley break, and an angel to retrieve it.



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Cycling, transit surpasses vehicle use

PLANNING

Entertainment, new stores give more options for travel by foot

Jen St. Denis
Metro | Vancouver

Vancouver's bike lane building boom is likely behind steadily increasing numbers of cyclists, but an untold story is how the percentage of people choosing to get around by foot has also been rising.

"What I see going on right now, walking in total numbers continues to grow really strongly in the city. The mode share hasn't grown that much but it's always had a really big piece of the pie," said Lon LaClaire, director of transportation for the City of Vancouver. The city's latest transportation survey showed that just over 50 per cent of residents now get around the city by foot, bike or transit. Walking is now 27 per cent of trips, up from 25.6 per cent in 2013.

Cyclists use the Dunsmuir street separated bike lane on May 18. The city's latest transportation survey showed that just over 50 per cent of residents now get around the city by foot, bike or transit. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

"Not only that but the distribution of walk trips across the city is changing, and places where we never saw a lot of pedestrians we're now starting to see a lot."

During a council meeting on May 16, Coun. Melissa De Genova expressed frustration that a proposed congestion management strategy didn't focus enough on the role of pedestrians and cyclists in causing vehicle back-ups.

In fact, foot traffic has grown so much on some Vancouver intersections that it is causing traffic delays, LaClaire said. The problems are happening at intersections like Cambie and Broadway where drivers used to be able to turn right, but now don't get that opportunity because of the sheer number of people walking through the crosswalk.

Transportation planners are looking at ways to relieve the pressure, like adding advance walk signs or turn signs to try to respond to the new traffic pattern. Cambie and Broadway has gotten so busy because of the combination of the Canada Line station and several big box stores on Cambie between Broadway and 6th. Other areas, like the new Emily Carr University on 2nd and Great Northern Way, could see the same pressures in the future.

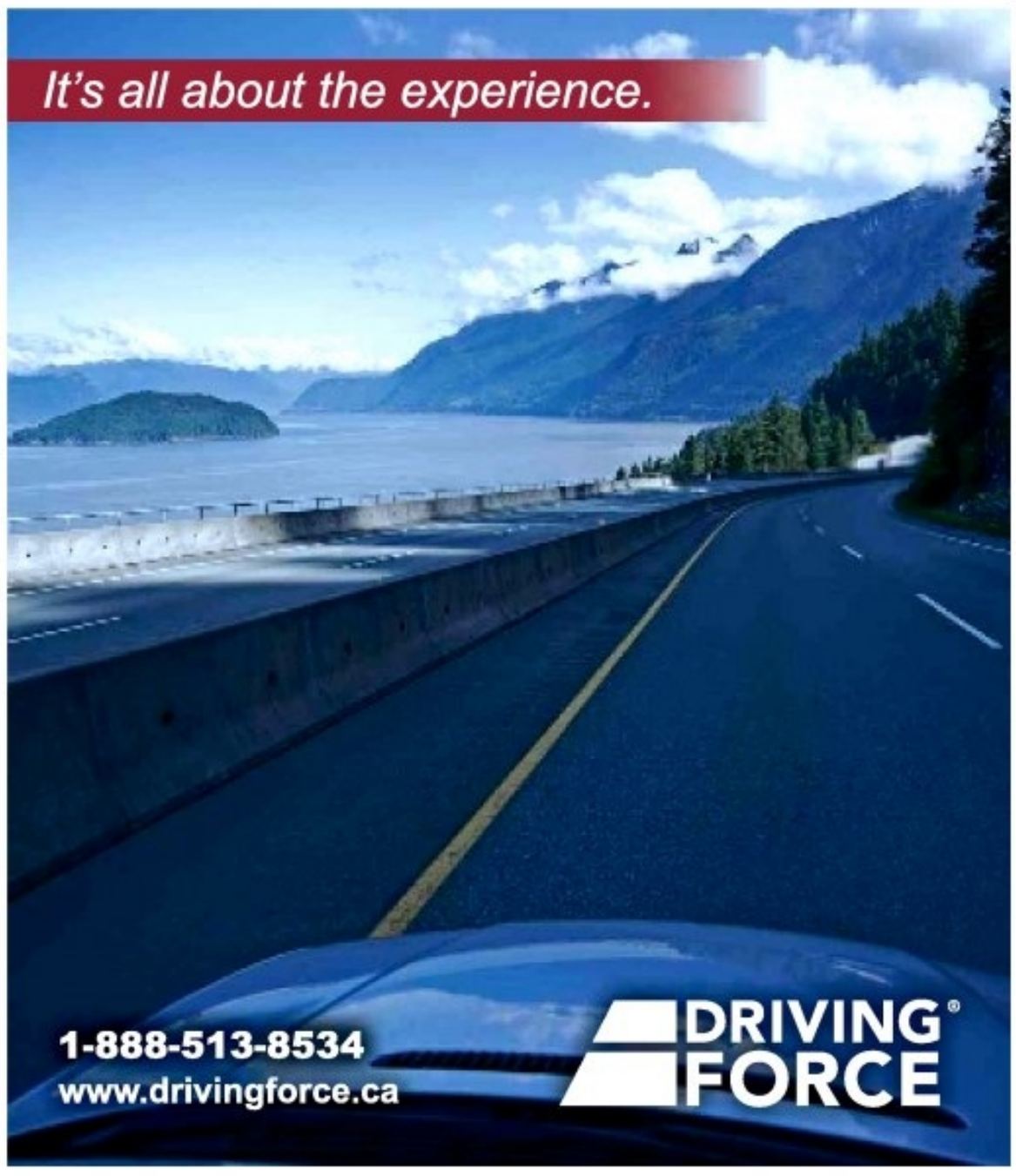
> **"Walking in total numbers continues to grow."**
> Lon LaClaire

But the increase in walking is mostly good news, LaClaire emphasized. In some areas, like Marine and Cambie, people are walking more because new high-rise developments have brought grocery stores and a movie theatre.

"There's no doubt in my mind, the walk to restaurant, the walk to shopping, this is where we can leverage a whole bunch of walk trips — if their home is near everything they need," said LaClaire.

Transit improvements also help bolster both walking and cycling because it gives people a backup if the weather changes or they have more to carry home than they thought. Transit mode share declined between 2014 and 2015, but increased slightly between 2015 and 2016. TransLink will be rolling out more service improvements this year.

When it comes to cycling, the community that saw the biggest increase was Kitsilano, rising from nine to 11 per cent. LaClaire believes the new Point Grey bike route was what pushed those numbers up. He's looking to see an increase in the Westside communities of Kerrisdale and Marpole, which currently have the lowest bike share at 3 per cent, when the temporary Arbutus Greenway is opened this summer and connects to the Burrard Bridge.



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Trudeau talks tech at B.C. studio

INNOVATION

Electronic Arts hosts PM and other leaders for roundtable

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau demonstrated a new virtual camera used by game makers at an Electronic Arts Canada studio near Vancouver on Thursday after promoting the country's technology sector to officials in Washington state.

Trudeau held the camera on his shoulder as two actors wearing special suits pretended to box at the company's Capture Lab, an animation facility in Burnaby.

The prime minister also attended a roundtable at Electronic Arts with business leaders from health care, clean technology, digital animation and visual effects.

"We're going to talk about how the government can be a better partner or better get out of your way in some cases to allow you to continue to grow, to succeed, to create great opportunities for innovations that are going to advance success in Canada, create good jobs for Canadians and draw in great people from around the world," Trudeau said before the discussions began.

Jon Lutz, vice-president of financial planning and strategy at Electronic Arts, said the company that has created some of the world's most successful video games is always looking for the most qualified people.

"We need the best people from all over the world so we welcome any strategies that grow the talent pool in Canada and enable us to compete on the global stage," he said.

Earlier Thursday, Trudeau met Washington Gov. Jay Inslee in Seattle where they discussed the development of the Cascadia Innovation Corridor, an initiative that aims to strengthen technology industry ties between British Columbia and Washington.

The pair also spoke about trade, investment opportunities and innovation in the energy sector, said Trudeau's office. In brief remarks before the meeting, the prime minister said Washington and Canada share common goals.

> **We're going to talk about how the government can be a better partner.**
> Justin Trudeau

"We're both strongly engaged on issues of climate change, on issues of openness to trade, on leadership on refugees as well and an understanding that diversity can be a real source of strength," he said.

Inslee said the state and country share an "incredible commitment" to defeating climate change.

But protesters gathered outside the hotel to criticize Trudeau's environmental record, arguing his support of pipelines is at odds with any global warming promises he has made.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RECOGNITION FOR HER CONSERVATION EFFORTS

Conservationist Anne Sherrod, 70, at home in New Denver, B.C. has been awarded the inaugural $10,000 Glen Davis Conservation Leadership Prize from WWF-Canada and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society. Sherrod, campaigned for more than 35 years with the Valhalla Wilderness Society to protect B.C. wilderness. THE CANADIAN PRESS

TENTS

Judge won't grant city injunction

The City of Vancouver says it is considering its options following a judge's decision not to grant an injunction that could permit removal of a tent encampment on the city's Downtown Eastside.

A news release from the city says keeping the tent city at 950 Main St. threatens the future of an affordable housing project on the same site.

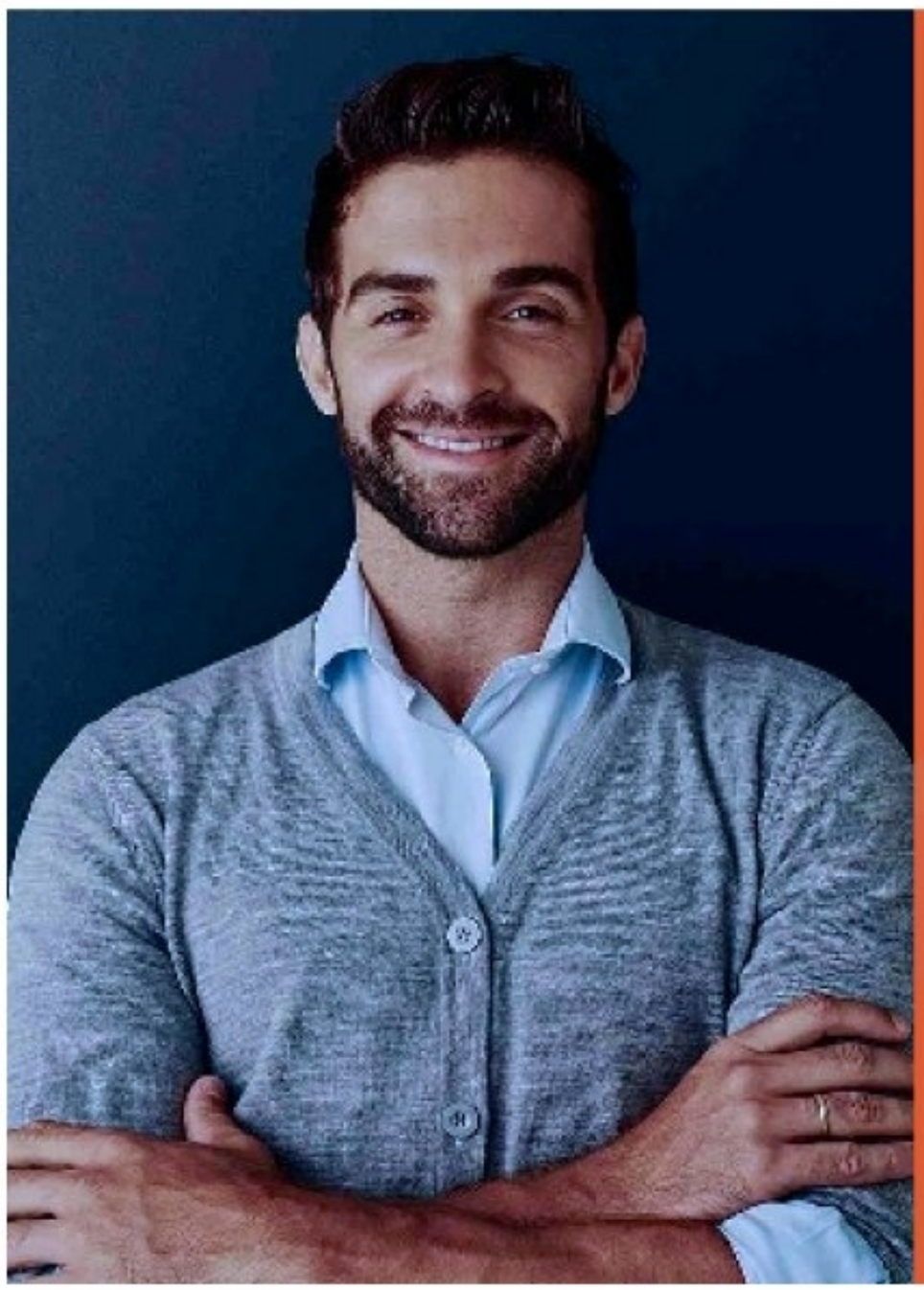
City officials say there are tight timelines to complete the 26-unit project, and any delays could risk funding already arranged by the group planning to operate the facility.

The release says the city agrees a lack of affordable housing around Vancouver is a critical challenge.

It also says outreach workers have managed to find shelter for three campers and hope to do the same for others.

About 30 people have defied an eviction order issued late last month, which prompted the city's failed effort to obtain an injunction.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



How fast is the Bell network in Vancouver?

It's not just part of the fastest ranked* network in Canada[1], it's also faster than the networks in Paris, London, Rome, New York, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Berlin, Beijing, Dubai, Melbourne, Shanghai, Milan, Geneva, Los Angeles, Madrid, Taipei, Barcelona, Munich...[2]

*bell.ca/pcmag2016

Bell living in Canada just got better

(1) As ranked by PC Mag. Reprinted from www.pcmag.com with permission. © 2016 Ziff Davis, LLC. All Rights Reserved. (2) City comparison speeds based on Ookla's analysis of Speedtest Intelligence data from January 1 to March 31, 2017.

VANCOUVERING

with icons by **Danielle Vallée** from the noun project

Healthy food pioneer takes on pizza

FOOD NOTES

Assembli hits the spot for mid-range pizza pies and salads

Abby Wiseman
For Metro

When it comes to pizza in Vancouver there seems to be just two choices: Spend $2 a slice while waiting for a taxi at 2 a.m. or spend $20 for beautiful Naples-style pizza at a restaurant.

Assembli Pizza and Salad (2325 Cambie St.) wants to fill the gap, offering 11-inch freshly made, customizable pizzas for $12.99. They also have a selection of big hearty salads starting at $10.99.

Deanna Embury, one of the founders of Assembli, previously owned Licious Living Co. — one of the first to deliver healthy, customized food in the city.

She incorporates a lot of what Licious was about in Assembli: fresh, made-to-order food with a focus on healthy options.

The pizzas are baked on a fluffy crust that is not too dense, but not too thin. I tried the Smoke & Fire with pepperoni, smoked cheddar, banana peppers, red onion, spicy tomato sauce and the Smooth Cremini Kale with sautéed mushrooms, mozzarella, kale, artichoke, red onion and white sauce.

The Smoke & Fire pizza from Assembli. ABBY WISEMAN/FOR METRO

The tomato sauce on the Smoke & Fire had a really good heat, which was kicked up a notch by the banana peppers and pepperoni.

White sauce is often lost in the ingredients on pizza, but this white sauce really stood out with a rich alfredo flavour. The kale was soft, but fresh and the onions really pulled it together. But I would have liked a little more mushroom.

All in all, the pizza was tasty and came up fast. Better yet, I didn't feel that bogged-down gut feeling I often get after mixing my favourite food groups, cheese and bread.

On to the abundant salads. I tried the Wild Cowboy with Cajun chicken, the O-Mega Brainiac and the Big G.

The Wild Cowboy stood out mostly because it felt indulgent. The roasted corn salsa added sweetness to the lime, chili and pico de gallo. It was a little spicy, but mostly creamy tasting.

The Big G and O-Mega Brainiac are what I consider healthy salads that taste like healthy salads, which is kind of the point. The beets and miso glory dressing is juxtaposed by the sweet blueberries making for an earthy salad, while the Big G's red cabbage, kale and citrus goddess dressing made for a hearty salad with fresher flavours.

Embury's vision for a mid-range salad and pizza bar is really well thought out and executed. Even the takeout boxes that congratulate the eater for not finishing the pizza are well designed. I recommend checking out Assembli the next time you have a hankering for some pizza pie.

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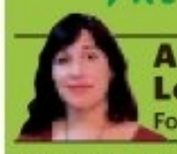

Amy Logan
For Metro | Vancouver

Blink and you might miss them. Vancouver's littlest parks pack a lot of community-building punch into small, well-designed packages.

Launched as a city pilot project in 2013, the parklets are created by extending platforms over parking spaces and adding landscaping, benches and bike parking. They have lofty goals as miniature public plazas.

The idea is to build community by offering a space to gather, people-watch, and engage in the neighbourhood.

Vancouver's parklets have included Hot Tubs Parklet in the South Fraser, and Parallel Park in front of JJ Bean on Main Street.

The French Quarter Parklet features triangular benches and native plant species. Margot Long of design firm PWL, who helped create the space, sees many benefits, including creating a "people place instead of a car space" and fostering community.

Parklet Project applicants are encouraged to seek global inspiration, but also to follow Vancouver guidelines. The ideal parklet location includes a community-oriented neighbourhood with plenty of pedestrian activity.

The South Hill BIA, who helped spearhead the Hot Tubs Parklet, is currently in the beginning stages of planning the first "Streatery" on Fraser Street, according to executive director Susan Lilholt. They are awaiting approval from the city. Another five applications are in the design review stage, according to a city report.

Long noted that the most rewarding aspect of designing the parklet was "creating more public realm space for gathering, enjoying restaurants, and being outdoors."

The French Quarter Parklet on Main Str. and 21st Ave.
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CANADIANS LIVING WITH CROHN'S OR COLITIS NEED MORE OPTIONS

DESPITE ADVANCES IN INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE RESEARCH, TREATMENTS FOR PATIENTS REMAIN LIMITED

Sandra Zelinsky has spent the last 24 years trying to stay at least one step ahead of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). In that time, she's been on several medications, undergone several surgeries, and rode the ups and downs of living with a chronic disease that has a way of throwing new problems at you.

"A few of the medications have worked amazingly but most of them were unsuccessful. My disease state constantly evolves, and as it changes, so do my medical needs," says Zelinsky.

Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, the two main forms of inflammatory bowel disease, cause the body to attack itself, leading to inflammation of the gastrointestinal tract. Because of that inflammation, people with IBD are left to face abdominal pain, cramps, bloating, fatigue, frequent and urgent bowel movements, internal bleeding, and unintended weight loss.

"In spite of the symptoms, people with IBD often look 'normal' on the outside," says Mina Mawani, President and CEO of Crohn's and Colitis Canada. "Canada in particular has some of the highest rates of inflammatory bowel disease in the world, and approximately 250,000 people across the country are living with Crohn's or colitis. You may know someone with the disease and not even know it."

There is no cure for Crohn's or colitis, but treatments can put the disease into remission, and patients can experience a reduction in their symptoms.

"Being in remission means we can live active, productive lives, and we can stay out of emergency rooms and avoid further surgeries," says Zelinsky, who now works as a patient engagement researcher, and who advocates for patient-centred care.

"Every case of IBD is unique, and each patient responds differently to different courses of treatment. To achieve remission, a patient may have to try multiple treatments before finding one that works for him or her. Each unsuccessful attempt means there's one less option available from an already limited number of treatments, and a treatment that works well for someone today could stop working tomorrow," says Mawani.

Having more and new options to choose from is integral to maintaining hope for continued remission. This is vital for people living with chronic diseases such as Crohn's and colitis.

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City calls for more fentanyl test strips

DRUGS

Six people died from overdoses last week in Vancouver

Wanyee Li
Metro | Vancouver

Test strips are used to check for presence of fentanyl in drugs such as heroin, crystal meth and cocaine.
THE CANADIAN PRESS/VANCOUVER COASTAL HEALTH

As the number of overdose deaths continues to rise in Vancouver, the city announced it wants to see more fentanyl test strips made available to drug users.

The strips test for the presence of fentanyl and a nine-month pilot project at Insite found users who knew their drugs contained fentanyl were more likely to decrease their dose and therefore less likely to overdose.

It's an approach that could save more lives, said Mayor Gregor Robertson. "Our residents are literally dying waiting for both treatment options that will get them off dangerous street drugs and save their lives, and immediate interventions like expanded drug testing that reduce overdoses," he said in a press release.

The mayor is calling on the next provincial government to increase funding for addiction treatments and interventions.

"Whether the next provincial government is comprised of BC Liberal, NDP or Green party members, our province urgently needs a government that will dramatically expand treatment and prevention to immediately save lives and connect people with the medical supports they need," said Robertson.

Fentanyl checks will continue to be available at Insite, according to Vancouver Coastal Health. Six Vancouverites died from drug overdoses last week, bringing the total to a record 154 deaths so far in 2017, according to the city.

Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services responded to 109 overdose calls.

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Taser appeals to go to top court

PERJURY

Mother of the man who died heartbroken over decision

RCMP Const. Kwesi Millington at his perjury trial in Vancouver in March 2014. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Two men convicted of perjury in connection with a stun-gun encounter at Vancouver's airport will have their appeals heard by the Supreme Court of Canada.

The court announced Thursday it would hear appeals from Const. Kwesi Millington and former corporal Benjamin Robinson. As is customary, the court gave no reason for its decision.

Millington was sentenced to 30 months in prison for testimony he gave to an inquiry examining the 2007 death of Robert Dziekanski, who was jolted several times with a Taser in the arrivals area of the airport.

Robinson was sentenced to two years less a day, one year of probation and 240 hours of community service.

They were found guilty of colluding to make up testimony, but the two other officers with them that night were acquitted of the same allegations.

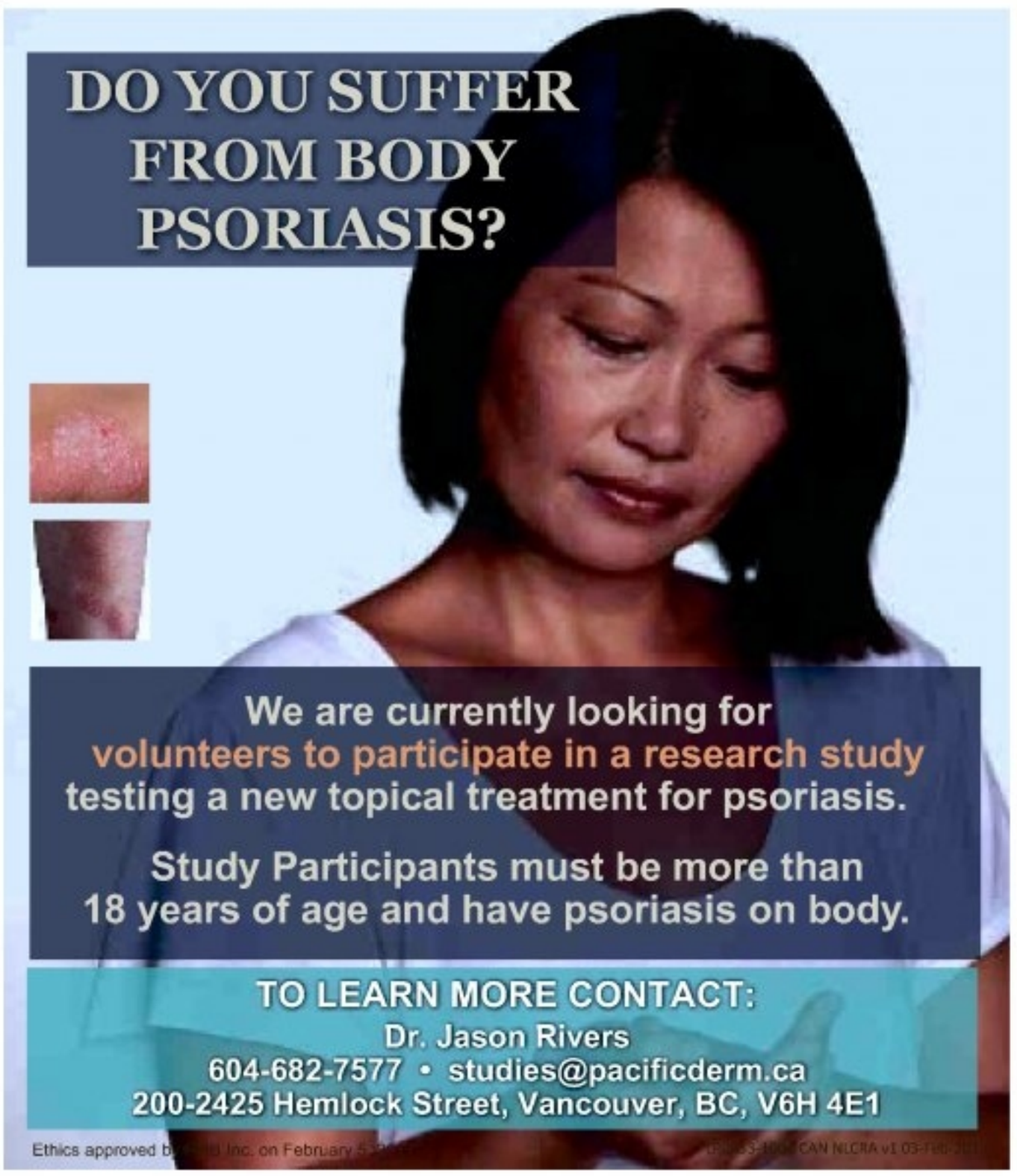
"They obviously wanted to hear the argument that we are advancing, that the verdict basically was unfair and not based on the evidence," said Glen Orris, the lawyer for Millington.

Orris said the high court has set a tentative date of Oct. 30.

Dziekanski's mother said in a phone interview from her home in Kamloops that the decision wasn't what she wanted to hear.

"I just want this to be over and done with; then I could cherish the memories still," she said.

The news was especially difficult for her, coming just after Mother's Day. "Even after 10 years almost, he's gone and there is no justice for my son," she said, crying. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Seeking to convert tiny skeptics

HOUSING

Three little houses will be open in front of Science World

Wanyee Li
Metro | Vancouver

If you have ever wondered whether tiny-living is for you, Saturday may be your chance to find out – there will be three tiny houses open for tours and volunteers will be building another in front of Science World from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The BC Tiny House Collective is hosting the free event, Go, Go Tiny, in an effort to convince people that living in a 250 square foot tiny house isn't as far-fetched as it may seem.

"Put your preconceptions to the test," said Anastasia Koutalianos, event organizer and BC Tiny House Collective co-founder.

"It's not for everyone. But for the people who want to downsize or who want to leave less of a carbon footprint or who want to be able to travel around… let them have that opportunity."

Industry and research partners will have booths set up at the event to showcase the technology that can go into a tiny house – everything from compost toilets to solar panels. Arts Umbrella will also be there to offer an architecture class for children. A ukulele band will serenade attendees throughout the day.

> **The possibilities are endless.**
> Anastasia Koutalianous

During those eight hours, about 30 people will build a 300-square foot tiny house from scratch, with the aim of raising it by 6 p.m. The project is headed by Emily Carr student, Callahan Tufts, who designs structures out of waste material from construction sites. The material is brand-new but would otherwise be sent to the landfill as scraps.

A tiny house made out of those kinds of materials could cost $20,000 or more to build but that's a fraction of what a Vancouver house would cost.

It could be an appealing option for those looking for affordable housing, but some dismiss it as a fad or a "hippie" way out. Tiny houses are neither of those things, said Koutalianos, who nonetheless does not live in a tiny house herself.

Many tiny-house owners in the United States, where the phenomenon is more established, are professionals, she said.

"They are professionals, well educated. Maybe we are the fools because they don't have a mortgage."

There's just one catch – it is still illegal to live in a tiny house in Vancouver. Residents are not allowed to live in vehicles (which a tiny house on wheels would qualify as) and dwellings must be at least 350 square feet large.

Koutalianos hopes the event will show city councillors and residents how versatile tiny houses can be.

"It can really work within existing neighbourhoods. The possibilities are endless."

Anastasia Koutalianous, left, and Samantha Gambling stand inside a tiny house currently located in North Vancouver on Feb. 16. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO FILE

MANITOBA

Fingerless man given refugee status

Five months after nearly freezing to death on a treacherous walk across the Canada-U.S. border, and still learning to get along without the 10 fingers and thumbs he lost to frostbite, Seidu Mohammed is happy.

He gets to stay in Canada.

The Immigration and Refugee Board has granted Mohammed refugee status on the basis that the 24-year-old bisexual professional soccer player from Ghana would face persecution if returned to his home country.

"I feel so happy. I feel now that this country is my home now," he said Thursday, sitting at the kitchen table in his home.

With a bit of effort, he opened a binder and produced the written decision from the Immigration and Refugee Board.

"I want to do anything possible to contribute to this country because this country has done a lot to me that I didn't expect. Ever since I came here, I've seen a lot of good people who give me courage and also support me." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Clock starts on NAFTA talks

TRADE

Negotiations to start as soon as possible, officials say

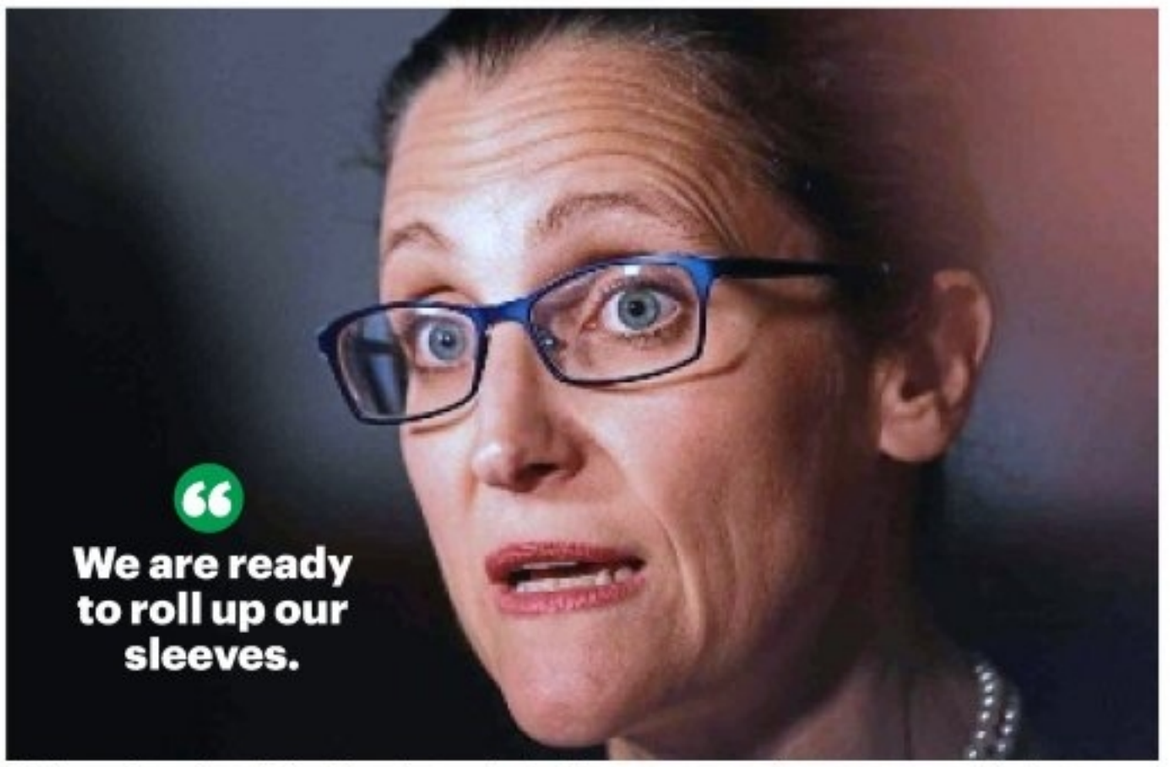
Canada says it's ready to talk now that U.S. President Donald Trump has formally launched the process to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland said Thursday that Ottawa has already decided that updating the environment and labour sections of the trade pact will be two areas of focus going into the negotiations.

"I'm not going to lay all my cards on the table now. I don't think Canadians would like us to do that," Freeland said.

She noted that in letters to Congress to trigger the process for renegotiation, U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer also flagged those two areas, among others.

Lighthizer's notice to Congress Thursday set the clock ticking on the start of negotiations, saying they would begin as soon as possible but no later than 90 days.



Minister of Foreign Affairs Chrystia Freeland talks to reporters about NAFTA outside the House of Commons on Thursday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

In the letter, Lighthizer — who gave Canada advance notice of the move, according to Freeland — said that elements of the 25-year-old deal are "outdated" and "do not reflect modern standards."

Lighthizer's letter set out some elements of the trade deal that the U.S. would like to see modernized, including intellectual property rights and regulatory practices.

Freeland said that Ottawa has a similar view and she tried to paint the renegotiation of the sweeping trade agreement as "routine."

The foreign affairs minister said the formal triggering of NAFTA talks has "long been anticipated" and said the federal government has already started to consult with Canadian stakeholders about Ottawa's priorities going into the talks.

Freeland declined to speculate about Washington's ambition to complete negotiations by the end of the year, saying any talk of timelines was "premature."

"What I will say is we are ready to roll up our sleeves — we have been from day one — and we will work hard and seriously on updating this essential agreement. At the end of the day, our objective is going to be to negotiate a great deal for Canadians, and I'm very confident we can do that," she said.

Lighthizer said that the United States seeks to support higher-paying jobs in the United States and to grow the U.S. economy by improving U.S. opportunities under NAFTA. And he said that "aggressive enforcement of the commitments made by our trading partners" was vital and needed to be improved.

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UN appeals for children's aid

Brothers Alejandro, three, and Mateo, five, and their family fled Honduras after a local gang threatened their lives. COURTESY UNHCR

REFUGEES

Campaign helps unaccompanied kids from Central America

With the number of unaccompanied and separated children fleeing gang violence in Central America doubling every year since 2011, the United Nations is launching a campaign to address the "urgent-yet-silent crisis."

The UN Refugee Agency will kick off the "Children on the Run" campaign in North America on Friday to raise $18 million to assist the young refugees fleeing Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras.

"We are very concerned about the forced recruitment of these children and youth into the gangs. These adolescents are sometimes killed, tortured and raped," said Jean-Nicolas Beuze, the agency's representative in Canada who is working on a pilot with Ottawa to resettle a small number of the vulnerable children.

"There is widespread violence and impunity. These are not economic migrants. They have no choice but to leave their own countries."

According to the UN, the number of refugees from the Northern Triangle countries in the last four years has increased to 146,000 in 2016 from 20,900 in 2012.

2/3

Two-thirds of the refugees entering Mexico reported being victims of violence during their transit toward the U.S.

Beuze said young refugees, many as young as 10 to 12 years old, often fall into the nets of traffickers and are sexually assaulted and exploited by human smugglers en route to Mexico and the United States. Some are even sold into prostitution, he said.

Calling it a "neglected humanitarian crisis," Doctors Without Borders released a report this week that found half of the refugees it surveyed in Mexico had a relative killed due to violence in the last two years. One in 10 reported symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder.

The UN Children on the Run campaign will focus on raising awareness of the growing number of children and families fleeing horrific violence in the three Central American countries through videos and stories on an information page on the crisis.

The money raised by donor countries and individuals will enable the UN Refugee Agency to shelter and protect the vulnerable, and facilitate family tracing, reunification and psychosocial support. So far, said Beuze, only eight per cent of the needed money has been raised.

Although Canada is buffered from the Central America crisis by Mexico and the U.S., Beuze said he has been in contact with Canadian officials to provide aid and launch a pilot project to resettle a small number of some of the most vulnerable young refugees to Canada.

Beuze would not provide details of the resettlement pilot, but said logistics had been discussed and he hoped it would be launched later this year.

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metro SCIENCE

Your essential daily news

Why do people with high IQs also tend to be atheists? Both groups are good at questioning their own instincts, a new Dutch study says

DECODED by Genna Buck and Andrés Plana

UNWANTED: CANADA'S MOST

You can wear bug spray, long sleeves and even tuck your pants into your socks (cool!), but from now until fall, you or your pet could encounter ticks, and an even less welcome hitchhiker: Lyme disease. It spiked from 144 cases in 2009 to an estimated 841 in 2016. **And the warming climate means ticks are showing up in more places.**

BLACKLEGGED TICK

Aliases: Deer tick, bear tick
Hangouts: Eastern and Central Canada
Crimes: Lyme disease, Deer Tick Virus Encephalitis, Babesiosis, many others

WESTERN BLACKLEGGED TICK

Hangouts: British Columbia and the U.S. Pacific Northwest
Crimes: Lyme disease, Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis

WHAT LYME IS — AND ISN'T

IS: an illness caused by **Borrelia burgdorferi** bacteria

IS: treatable with antibiotics

IS: transmitted from birds and mammals to people via ticks

IS: usually spotted as a **"bulls-eye" rash** at the site of a tick bite

IS: a cause of fatigue, headache, chills, fever, muscle and joint pain, cardiac problems, facial paralysis and even meningitis

IS: a cause of painful arthritis and changes to personality, brain function and speech — if untreated

ISN'T: A chronic infection. Although symptoms can continue long after treatment, "chronic Lyme disease" is unproven. There's no benefit, but plenty of risks, to taking more antibiotics after the initial infection has cleared up.

SIZING UP TICKS

Ticks from the same species look different before and after eating and at different stages in the life cycle.

15mm **Adults (after feeding)** look large and swollen: You won't miss it.

3-5mm **Adults** burrow into skin, but you might not feel it because tick spit contains natural anesthetic.

2mm **Nymphs** are most likely to transmit Lyme. They're tiny and hard to spot.

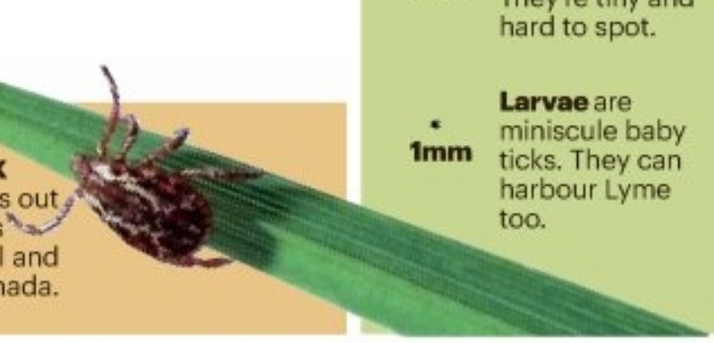
1mm **Larvae** are miniscule baby ticks. They can harbour Lyme too.

NASTY NEIGHBOURS

These ticks aren't associated with Lyme, but can spread other infections

LONE STAR TICK : THE NEW TICK ON THE BLOCK This southern U.S. native is spreading to Canada as the climate warms. Its bite can induce a rare allergy to red meat.

AMERICAN DOG TICK
This plentiful tick hides out in grass, urban parks and trails in Central and Eastern Canada.



FINDINGS
Your week in science

FEDERAL FRAMEWORK
The government is set to release a framework for a national Lyme surveillance program this month along with guidelines and educational materials for health providers. The draft did not include references to the disputed "chronic Lyme disease," sparking protest from patient groups.

SOUND SMART

PEDIPALPS

DEFINITION
Pedipalps are the two "arms" that spiders, scorpions and some crabs have on the front of their bodies.

USE IT IN A SENTENCE
There's a reason spiders make bad pop song writers. You try finding a rhyme for "I long to hold you in my **pedipalps**."

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metro WEEKEND

Your essential daily news

MOVIES MUSIC TELEVISION DIGITAL

Sci-fi thrillers are bursting back

The newly released Alien: Covenant is the latest of many film franchises to return to the big screen

Katherine Waterston joins a star-studded cast, including Michael Fassbender, Billy Crudup and Danny McBride for Alien: Covenant, in theatres now. CONTRIBUTED

You could **WIN** screening passes!

Based on the bestselling Captain Underpants book series this raucously subversive comedy for the entire family tells the story of two overly imaginative pranksters named George and Harold, who hypnotize their principal into thinking he's a ridiculously enthusiastic, incredibly dimwitted superhero named Captain Underpants.

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Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

That's a lot of facehugging and chestbursting.

Since the 1979 release of Alien, a film Roger Ebert called "an intergalactic haunted house thriller set inside a spaceship," audiences have been fascinated with the sci fi/horror series.

The latest movie sees a new crew — including Michael Fassbender, Katherine Waterston, Billy Crudup and Danny McBride — on a mission to colonize planet Origae-6. Along the way they abandon their original course, choosing a closer, apparently inhabitable planet only to be met with terror and acid-spewing creatures.

Covenant is the third Alien movie directed by Ridley Scott. I once asked him what it was that kept him casting his eyes to the skies movie wise.

"The fantasy of space," he said, "which is now also a reality, is a marvellous platform and a form of theatre. Honestly, almost anything goes."

The freedom of the sci fi genre is a common theme among creators. Denis Villeneuve, whose sequel to Ridley Scott's Blade Runner, now titled Blade Runner 2019, comes out later this year, remembers how his mind was opened by his first exposure to the genre.

"At a very young age one of my aunts came home one night and she had brought two or three big cardboard boxes filled with magazines," says Villeneuve.

"Those magazines were all about sci fi. Those boxes changed my life because the amount of poetry and creativity among the guys that were drawing those comic strips. They were very strong storytellers. They were all like mad scientists playing with our brains."

A month before Alien: Covenant's opening date Scott announced plans to start shooting another sequel within the next fourteen months.

Until that one hits theatres what other sci fi films should we have a look at?

Vincenzo Natali, the director of episodes of television's Westworld and Orphan Black and adventurous films like Cube and Splice has some suggestions.

"I could mention 2001, Star Wars and The Matrix, but we've all been there. I think there are some very worthy science fiction films that aren't so well known."

First on his list is Stalker, from master director Andrei Tarkovsky.

"It's about a zone in Russia that may have had some kind of alien visitation and is highly classified. There are very special people called stalkers who illegally enter the zone and can take you to a place where your wishes can come true. No other movie ever made is quite like it. It is one of the most beautiful films I've ever seen."

Next up is The 10th Victim, a futuristic Marcello Mastroianni movie about a deadly televised game called The Big Hunt which becomes a replacement for all conflict on Earth, but at what cost? "An Italian film made in the '60s but way ahead of its time," he says.

"It's a satirical comedy, absolutely brilliantly made, filled with cool futuristic Italian design and it's really funny. I cannot recommend it enough."

Third is the animated La Planète Sauvage.

"It takes place on a planet where humans are pets for a race of large aliens. It's a kind of a Spartacus story against the aliens. Totally outrageous and very, very '70s."

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Alien: Covenant	★★
Diary of a Wimpy Kid	★★★
Chuck	★★★
The Lovers	★★★
Tommy's Honour	★★★

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Is 'sick-lit' the new genre of teen romance?

Everything, Everything is about a quarantined teen with a rare disease, based on the book by Nicola Yoon and directed by Stella Meghie (pictured below). CONTRIBUTED

DRAMA

Love stories foiled by illness are on the rise in Hollywood

Steve Gow
For Metro Canada

There's a hot trend in pop-culture right now and it's got nothing to do with crystal-infused water bottles, restorative nap cafés or even the latest Fitbit. No, I'm talking about the rise of the terminal romance.

Popularized by such young adult films as The Fault in Our Stars and smash Netflix series 13 Reasons Why, these books-turned-blockbusters backdrop budding teen romance against raw topics like illness or death.

"Kids are dealing with these things — whether or not we decide to talk about them," novelist Nicola Yoon said recently about the trend.

"I definitely feel a responsibility to be a part of that conversation but we can't pretend these things aren't happening."

Yoon's bestseller Everything, Everything is just the latest sobering story to see life on the big screen.

A tale about a teen with an extremely rare disease, Everything, Everything quarantines its protagonist inside her hermetically sealed home for her own safety. But when the handsome boy next door suddenly shows up, Maddy begins to risk her own health to join her would-be suitor.

"It's just very unique in the way its told," said director Stella Meghie of the inspiring novel.

"There's drawings and text messages, lists and recipes and it just has a certain whimsy and quirkiness to it but the romance is classic — it's Romeo and Juliet."

Not unlike the Shakespeare mainstay, Everything, Everything doesn't shy away from dark themes. But the rising trend of introducing such subjects as disease and death into young adult fiction has caused concern with some parents as well.

Nicknamed "sick-lit" by detractors, many say such content only romanticizes dark deeds and may provoke depression or other harmful acts among teens.

"Books don't create behaviours," defended If I Stay author Gayle Forman in Time Magazine. "What books can do, however, is reflect an experience and show a way out of difficult, isolating times" — a sentiment Yoon and Meghie certainly agree with.

"Kids are at such a pivotal stage of their life. I mean they're trying to figure out who they are, who they're going to be and they're trying to figure out how to be a good citizen of the world, asking themselves these big questions about the meaning of life," said Yoon. "These are great questions — adults should be asking them too."

3 MORE TEEN TERMINAL ROMANCES

The Fault In Our Stars
John Green's bestseller-turned-blockbuster stars Shailene Woodley as a terminally ill teen who bonds with a boy from her cancer support group.

If I Stay
After a family car crash lands a girl in a deep coma, she has an out-of-body experience that forces her to decide between two fates — one of which is a budding romance.

13 Reasons Why
Jay Asher's novel has stirred up controversy with its Netflix adaptation that follows a teenager as he tries to uncover why his crush killed herself.

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Cornell, voice of rock, mourned

OBITUARY

Lead singer of Soundgarden, Audioslave was an industry vet

Chris Cornell had become one of the most lauded and respected contemporary lead singers in rock music, thanks to his charismatic energy onstage and wide vocal range. He was a leader of the grunge movement with Seattle-based Soundgarden — with whom he gained critical and commercial acclaim — but also found success outside the band with other projects, including Audioslave, Temple of the Dog as well as solo albums.

His death Wednesday night stunned his family and his die-hard fans, who Cornell had just performed for hours earlier at a show in Detroit. Police said Thursday that the 52-year-old's death is being investigated as a possible suicide.

Detroit police spokesman Michael Woody told The Associated Press on Thursday that he couldn't release details about why police are investigating the death as a possible suicide, but noted there were "basic things observed at the scene" and another police spokesman told two Detroit newspapers that the singer was found with a band around his neck.

An autopsy is being conducted Thursday and some information from it is expected to be released later in the day.

Soundgarden's current tour kicked off in late April and was planned to run through May 27.

Cornell was known for his memorable voice and skilled songwriting, collaborating on a number of film soundtracks, including the James Bond theme song for 2006's Casino Royale and The Keeper from Machine Gun Preacher, which earned him a Golden Globe nomination.

"To create the intimacy of an acoustic performance there needed to be real stories. They need to be kind of real and they need to have a beginning, middle and an end. That's always a challenge in three and a half or four minutes — to be able to do that, to be able to do it directly," Cornell said of songwriting in a 2015 interview with The Associated Press.

Cornell, who grew up in Seattle, said he was kicked out of school at age 15 and started using drugs at 13.

"I went from being a daily drug user at 13 to having bad drug experiences and quitting drugs by the time I was 14 and then not having any friends until the time I was 16," he told Rolling Stone in 1994.

"There was about two years where I was more or less agoraphobic and didn't deal with anybody, didn't talk to anybody, didn't have any friends at all. All the friends that I had were still (messed) up with drugs and were people that I didn't really have anything in common with."

But at 16 he became serious about music, learning to play the drums while also working as a busboy and dishwasher. "That was the toughest time in my life," he told Rolling Stone.

He eventually became a Grammy winner with Soundgarden, formed in 1984 and emerging from Seattle's blossoming music scene — which included Nirvana, Pearl Jam and Alice in Chains.

The band made a mainstream breakthrough with Superunknown, its 1994 album that launched five singles, won them two Grammys and sold more than five million units in the U.S. They broke up in 1997.

In 2001, Cornell joined Audioslave, a supergroup that included former Rage Against the Machine members Tom Morello, Brad Wilk and Tim Commerford. The band released three albums in six years before disbanding in 2007. Cornell and Soundgarden reunited in 2010 and released the band's sixth studio album, King Animal in 2012.

Cornell also collaborated with members of what would become Pearl Jam to form Temple of the Dog, which produced a self-titled album in 1991. In 2011, he was ranked ninth on Rolling Stone's list of the best lead singers of all time, selected by readers.

Cornell referenced death and suicide in a 2007 interview with the AP when discussing No Such Thing, a single on his second solo album, Carry On.

"The 'no such thing as nothing' line comes from the concepts that humans don't really have a flat line until we're dead. If we are not leading a happy productive life, we are leading probably an unhappy non-productive life," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police are investigating the musician's death as a possible suicide. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Jeff Koons' 45-metre inflatable ballerina sculpture is up until June 2 at Rockefeller Center

Montana's magnificent ranges

EXPLORE

Find solitude and majesty in the Beartooth Wilderness

Crawl from your warm sleeping bag out the tent door, into the darkness and pre-dawn wind whipping across the plateau. Look up at the cathedral of the sky. Watch the whirlpool of constellations spin overhead.

It's hard not to feel vertigo in the majesty of Montana's wilderness. Whether you seek the rocky heights of a 3,000-metre peak or an endless chain of lakes, the pastels of a mountain meadow or the catch of day (here it's trout), you'll find it here in one of the state's most magnificent ranges, the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness.

This 42-kilometre trail cuts through one of the state's most majestic ranges. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The best way to get in there is the Beaten Path, a 42-kilometre trail that climbs up and over the Gallatin National Forest watershed divide. The trail has a reputation for high foot and horse traffic, but in the five days we backpacked through last summer, my hiking partner and I saw just a handful of others and embraced the solitude.

The trailhead sits at the southeastern edge of East Rosebud Lake. Accessible by car from the north via a 22-kilometre road from Roscoe.

However, we accessed the path via Red Lodge, a tourist town east of the wilderness that serves as the jumping-off point for the Beartooth Highway, a breathtaking drive that climbs to 3,352 metres while winding along the Wyoming border. Much of the valley and surrounding ridgeline is a moonscape of charred timber and ash on the forest floor, the result of an intense 2008 fire.

Climbing north out of the river valley and onto the Red Lodge Creek plateau, our boots were grey and dusty by the time we reach tree line. Up to 3,000 metres then down off the ridge, we camped on the marshy shores of Crow Lake, hemmed in by a seam of serrated peaks that turned crimson at sunset.

The following day, we climbed out of the valley and crossed an amber meadow carpet, then descended a dusty switchback to arrive at East Rosebud Lake and the beginning of the north end of the Beaten Path.

The path wound south, past one lake after another, following East Rosebud Creek as it drains north. The fishermen we passed carrying trout in plastic bags provided reassurance that even novice anglers like ourselves could catch something. At Elk Lake that night, we did not.

One of the beauties of the Montana alpine terrain is how easy it is to wander. One night, we bushwhacked off trail, upstream to Echo Lake. Pika Peak, named for the small, furry rodents we saw occasionally darting along the trail, was bathed in a tangerine sunset, and we were astounded that, literally, with every cast of our reel, we pulled in brook trout well in excess of a foot. Pan-fried trout for dinner and for breakfast.

After being baked red by the sun for three days, we welcomed the wind but not the spitting snow and hail. We bundled up for our descent.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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OTTAWA

metro SPORTS

Starter Marcus Stroman hit his first major-league home run Thursday night, an opposite field jack as the Jays' rolled to a 9-0 win in Atlanta

McGregor signs up to fight Mayweather

NOTORIOUS M & M

Boxing legend Floyd must now agree to deal for bout to happen

Conor McGregor has come to an agreement with the UFC that has moved a proposed fight with Floyd Mayweather Jr. closer to reality.

UFC president Dana White said he reached a deal with McGregor, MMA's biggest star and lightweight champion, and will now start negotiations on a mega fight with the retired Mayweather that could be worth $1 billion.

"I'm not saying the fight will happen, but I've got one side done. Now it's time to work on the other," White said.

McGregor confirmed the contract for the boxing match in a statement to Themaclife.com.

"The first, and most important part of this historic contract has now officially been signed off on," McGregor said. "Congratulations to all parties involved. We now await Al Haymon and his boxer's signature in the coming days."

White and McGregor did not announce specifics of the deal.

Conor McGregor has never boxed professionally before but is the UFC's biggest star. GETTY IM AGES

"If we can come to a deal with Haymon and Mayweather, the fight's gonna happen," White said.

Mayweather was in London this week and told reporters he would end his nearly two-year retirement for what could be the richest payday in fight history.

"There's only one fight that makes business sense," Mayweather said. "I came out of retirement because I'm a businessman and I want to give the world what they want to see. McGregor's a fighter. I'm a fighter. This is what the fight fans and MMA fans want to see."

> **The first, and most important part of this historic contract has now officially been signed off on.**
> Conor McGregor

The 40-year-old Mayweather, one of the great pound-for-pound fighters who retired at 49-0 in 2015, has said he'd want the fight to be at either 147 or 150 pounds and be part of a Showtime pay-per-view package.

McGregor, 28, hasn't fought since he defeated Eddie Alvarez at UFC 205 in November 2016. He has no scheduled UFC fights ahead. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

Pillar 'ashamed' of homophobic slur

Kevin Pillar was suspended for two games Thursday for shouting an anti-gay slur at an Atlanta Braves pitcher, an incident the Toronto Blue Jays centre-fielder says he deeply regrets but hopes will ultimately raise awareness about the hurtful impact words can have.

General manager Ross Atkins confirmed the team ban during a media availability before Thursday night's game at SunTrust Park in Atlanta. Pillar's pay from the two games will be donated, Atkins said.

Pillar was angry at Jason Motte for allegedly quick-pitching him to get a strikeout that ended the seventh inning in Atlanta's 8-4 victory Wednesday night.

Kevin Pillar GETTY IMAGES

Replays appeared to show Pillar using the slur as he yelled toward the mound.

Pillar told reporters in Atlanta there is "no place for this language" anywhere, including on the baseball field.

"I really felt embarrassed for myself, for my family for this organization," Pillar said, adding that he had not slept much Wednesday night. "I was ashamed." THE CANADIAN PRESS

PYEONGCHANG 2018

Organizer 'Ready to co-operate' with NHL

The head of the Pyeongchang Olympics organizing committee said Thursday that the NHL isn't being "greedy" preventing hockey stars going to the 2018 Games and he was willing to be flexible to meet its demands.

Organizing committee president Lee Hee-beom said on Thursday that "we are ready to co-operate." Lee says he's doesn't know what the NHL's conditions are "but whatever they ask — if it is acceptable for us — we will do our best."

During an interview in London, Lee added that "so far I don't think they were so ... greedy and they didn't ask too many requests beyond our expectations."

Lee Hee-beom GETTY IMAGES

The IIHF also has been willing to discuss options, but acknowledged a "game-changer" offer was likely needed for NHL team owners to change their minds about halting the league schedule for three weeks. The best players in the world have played in every Olympics since 1998. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MMA

Canuck McDonald ready for Bellator debut

Canadian Rory MacDonald, a former UFC welterweight contender, isn't thinking about titles as he makes his Bellator debut.

"Honestly I'm not too worried about being champ. I'm just there to take out whoever's in front of me," said MacDonald, a native of Kelowna, B.C., who fights out of Montreal.

"Obviously it would be nice to fight for the title but I'm not really putting a lot of pressure on that. I just want to go out there and wreck people the way I know I can."

MacDonald (18-4-0) kicks off his plan to wreak havoc in the Bellator ranks on Friday when he takes on brash Brit Paul (Semtex) Daley (39-14-2) at London's SSE Arena, formerly known as Wembley Arena.

Watching will be Bellator champion Douglas Lima (28-6-0), who decisioned Daley last July in between losing the 170-pound title and winning it back from Russian Andrey Koreshkov.

Rory McDonald GETTY IMAGES

MacDonald, 27, signed with Bellator last August after his UFC contract expired. His last fight in the UFC was a June 2016 loss to current No. 2 contender Stephen (Wonderboy) Thompson.

Daley's last opponent — Brennan Ward — was stretchered out of the cage in January after having his face carved open by a vicious flying knee at Bellator 170.

MacDonald started in mixed martial arts at 14, making his pro debut two years later with his parents having to give their approval. Even then only a few athletic commissions would sanction the youngster.

He won the King of the Cage Canadian lightweight title at 18 — in his sixth fight — and the King of the Cage world 155-pound title in his next outing a year later. He was 20 when he made his UFC debut. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Spurs go off on Leicester

Harry Kane scored four goals in Tottenham's 6-1 rout of Leicester on Thursday.

Son Heung-min became the highest-scoring South Korean player in a European season scoring twice to reach 21 goals and break Cha Bum-kun's 19-goal haul at Bayer Leverkusen. Leicester's Ben Chilwell got the Foxes' consolation goal. Leicester manager Craig Shakespeare will find out if he will keep his job in the coming days. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gaviria wins long Giro stage

Colombian rider Fernando Gaviria won a bunch sprint at the end of the longest stage of the Giro d'Italia on Thursday to earn his third victory in his first Grand Tour.

Gaviria, who rides for Quick-Step Floors, edged Italian rival Jakub Mareczko at the end of the 229-kilometre route from Forli to Reggio Emilia. Sam Bennett of Ireland was third in the 12th stage. Overall, Holland's Tom Dumoulin is the leader. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MAKE IT TONIGHT

Luscious Rhubarb and Plum Crumble

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Catch the end of rhubarb season with this luscious dessert.

Ready in 1 hour
Prep time: 30 minutes
Cook time: 30 minutes
Serves 8

Ingredients
- 1 cup whole wheat flour
- 3/4 cup rolled oats
- 1/2 cup + 2 Tbsp brown sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/3 cup pecans, chopped
- 1/2 cup butter, melted
- 3 1/2 cups of chopped, pitted plums
- 2 cups chopped rhubarb
- 1/3 cup + 2 Tbsp maple syrup
- 1 Tbsp lemon juice
- 1 Tbsp flour

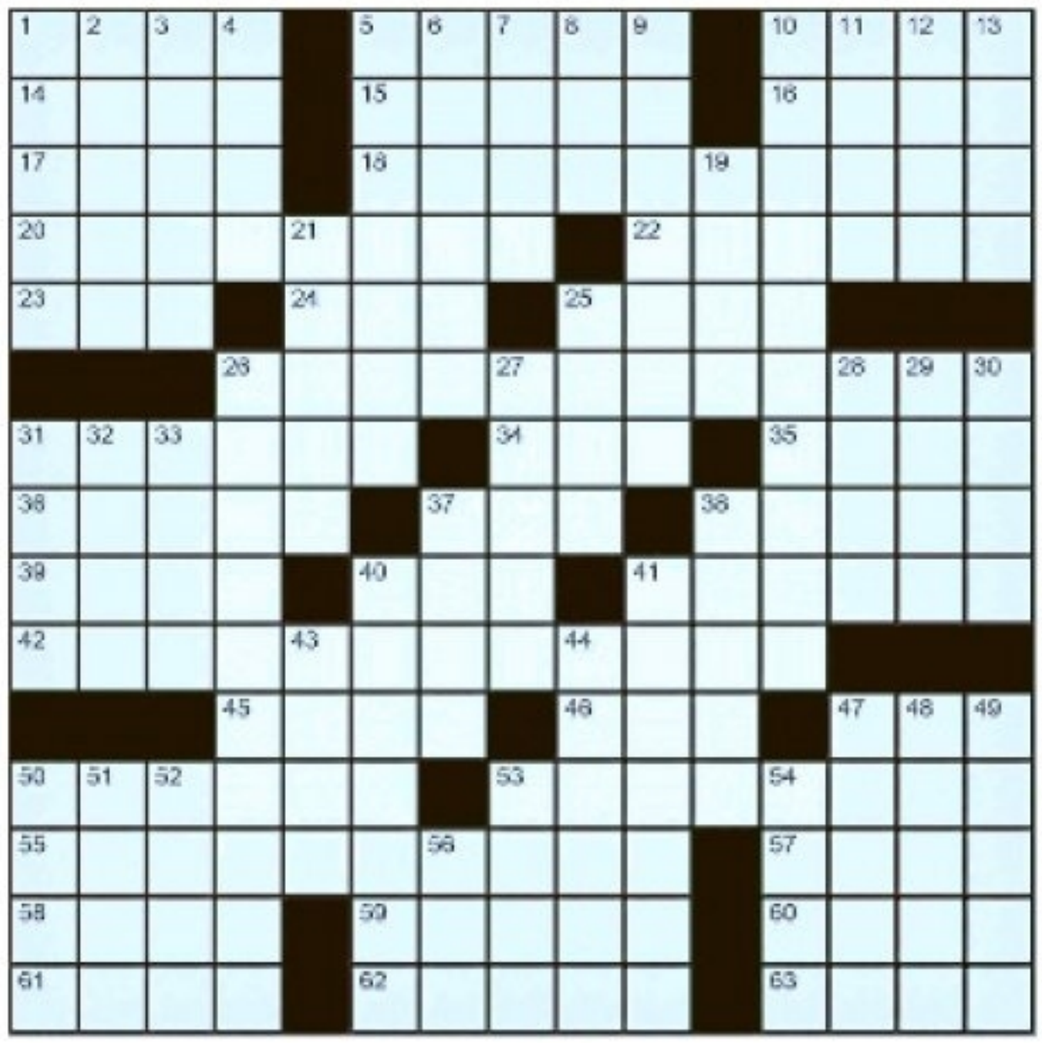
Directions

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
2. Toss together the flour, oats, 1/2 cup of brown sugar, cinnamon, salt and nuts until everything is well combined.
3. In a small bowl, mix together melted butter and 2 Tbsp maple syrup. Pour over the oat mixture and stir until it becomes evenly moist. Set aside.
4. Place your chopped plums and rhubarb, lemon juice, 1/3 cup of maple syrup, 2 Tbsp brown sugar and flour in a bowl and give it a good toss. Pour fruit into an 8" x 8" baking pan. Top with crumble. Don't worry if it doesn't cover the fruit perfectly.
5. Bake for 30 to 35 minutes until the topping is golden brown and the fruit is bubbling. Allow to cool for a few minutes before serving.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Mr. Klugman of "Quincy, M.E."
5. Cashier-to-customers papers [abbr.]
10. Queen Victoria's is May 24th, briefly
14. Cosmetics giant
15. "Star Trek" character
16. Laugh: French
17. Enthusiasm
18. Popular pair of pants: 2 wds.
20. Journalistic output, often, to President Donald Trump: 2 wds.
22. Make a money plan
23. Years: French
24. "Could __ Your Girl" by Jann Arden
25. Actress, Candace Cameron __
26. Juno-winning country star from Nova Scotia: 2 wds.
31. Bequest
34. Grassland
35. "There will __ talking in class!"
36. Singer Ms. Cara
37. Soaked
38. "Desperately Seeking __" (1985)
39. Sud's directional opposite
40. Fashion scarf
41. 7UP rival
42. Canadian production on Broadway which has seven Tony Award nominations for this year's 2017 broadcast on June 11th: 3 wds.
45. Racetrack fence
46. Convened
47. Entrepreneur's deg.
50. Travels around a planet
53. Those driving too fast
55. Central thoroughfare in Winnipeg: 2 wds.
57. Beehive State
58. Editor's 'let it stand'
59. Place to connect in Chicago
60. Zero, in tennis
61. Mr. Malden
62. Oscar-winner Sophia
63. Diving bird

DOWN
1. Orange variety
2. Bird-related
3. Wine bottle toppers
4. Leg-bending point
5. 2010 Rihanna chart-topper: 2 wds.
6. Grub grinder
7. Wordplays
8. Numerical prefix
9. Liqueur of Italy
10. Rural town in Saskatchewan west of the Manitoba border
11. Hor. Vert. __. (Abbreviated lines)
12. "Rule, Britannia" composer
13. Fri., on Sat.
19. __ Mountains (Switzerland-France range)
21. Bridget Fonda, to Jane
25. __ juice
26. Newfoundland airport where planes on 9/11 were diverted (What the musical at #42-Across is about): wd. + abbr.
27. Sparkle
28. "__ _ can." (Can-do attitude reply)
29. Go __ great length
30. Zippo
31. Rival car of a Cadillac, for short
32. 'Switch' suffix
33. Wheat __
37. Sheep coat fabric
38. Outpouring
40. "__ Stomp": 1961 hit for The Dovells
41. Make more sugary
43. '50s singer Mr. Domino
44. Unit of electric current
47. "Ditto over here!": 2 wds.
48. "Clap! Clap! Clap!"
49. Drained looking
50. City of Russia
51. Pro __ (In proportion)
52. Casket stand
53. Singe
54. Boring
56. Greek alphabet's 17th letter

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
You feel warm and generous to everyone today, which is why this is a great day to schmooze with partners and close friends. Have a good time, but don't go overboard.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You feel content today. You're happy in your own skin. Things are coming your way and work looks hopeful!

Gemini May 22 - June 21
This is a popular day! Enjoy interactions with others, whether they are casual friendships or dealings with groups and organizations. People want to see you today.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You make a fabulous impression on bosses, parents and VIPs today. Just be careful you don't promise more than you can deliver. Remain realistic.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Big travel plans are thrilling. You want to go places and enjoy things in Leo style!

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
If you have to share or divide something today, don't give away the farm. Remember that you have rights, too. Respect your own self-interest.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You feel warm and friendly toward everyone today, which is why you will be tempted to go overboard or make promises that you cannot fulfill.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
This is a day full of self-indulgence. You might overeat and enjoy seconds on dessert, but you will feel guilty because you also have an eye on your health.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
This definitely is a party day — and you are the sign who likes to work hard and party hard! Enjoy good times with friends, sporting events and playful activities with children.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You will love to entertain at home today. In particular, you will love to show your guests a good time.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
This is a fun-loving day; and you're in a great mood. You will enjoy the company of others, and you also will enjoy the beauty of your daily surroundings. It's a fortunate day, indeed!

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Look for ways to boost your income, because they do exist today. However, you also might overspend on something because it's easy to go overboard today. Ka-ching!

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

	4		6		7			
1	8	9					2	7
		3						
7				5	8			
			4	1				3
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2	6					5	3	8
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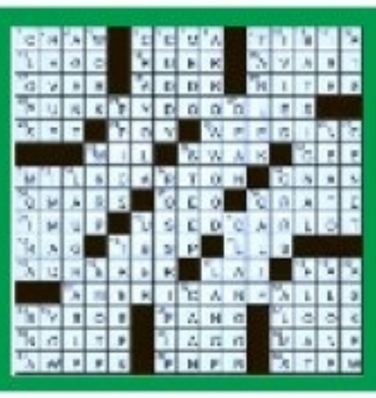

4	7	5	2	8	9	3	1	6
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1	6	4	3	9	2	8	7	5
5	2	8	4	1	7	6	3	9
7	1	6	9	4	8	2	5	3
9	5	2	6	7	3	1	8	4
8	4	3	1	2	5	9	6	7

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